

King County Mental Health Board
King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Board

Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6A, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Attending:

Ron Sterling, Eleanor Owen, Jim Harbaugh, Bob Seidensticker, Pam Detrick, Howard Miller, Alice Howell, Clifford Thurston, Roger Goodman

Staff:

Sherry Hamilton, Geoff Miller

Introductions

Introductions were made. Roger Goodman was introduced as the new joint chair of the committee.

Minutes from May 22, 2002

The minutes from the May 22, 2002 meeting were approved as written.

2002 Action Plan

The Action plan was discussed. Roger began by discussing what he had discovered about the "hot" issues for the next legislative session. Roger noted that his legislative contact said there were not many issues except the budget shortfall. Roger then asked the group what issues they might be aware of for the coming session.

Eleanor offered the following:

- Prescription drug bill
- Ticket to work (work improvement incentive act) implementation
- Coalition for parity of coverage between mental health and medical benefits

Sherry offered the following:

- CD Residential reimbursement rates
- Centralization of RSN Ombuds services

Roger noted the following:

- SB 6589 Advance Directives may surface again

The group discussed the impact of the retirement of Sen. Jeanine Long, and the loss of Sen. Jerry Costa who will not run again. It was noted that the group would want to

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develop relationships with legislators in hopes that a new legislative champion(s) of human service issues will emerge.

The group also noted that in the past providers and representatives from provider and consumer organizations were participating in the meetings.

Geoff agreed to contact Pat Knox, Norm Johnson, Jeff Bott, Shirley Havenga, and Bill Hobson to invite them to the next meeting.

The group then discussed the legislative goals for the group. Among the questions posed was "Is stable funding a goal? And if it is a goal, then what is the minimum level of care expected for mental health and chemical dependency?" The group agreed that we need to take a position that includes "stable funding."

Several current revenue sources were discussed as well as the history of funding for both mental health and chemical dependency.

Howard noted that there is a need for a "master plan" for mental health and chemical dependency.

Legislative Forum

Sherry noted the cost of legislative forum and the challenges she was having in finding a place in the south King County that was affordable.

Geoff agreed to check with DASA for suggestions on inexpensive places that would provide sufficient space for the forum.

Planning for the forum began in earnest with many suggestions on the forum format and program. It was agreed that in order to get legislators to attend they would need to have many personal contacts from committee, and Board members as well as from the community.

Public Affairs Subcommittee

A Public Affairs Subcommittee will develop a public affairs outreach plan. The subcommittee members are Pam Detrick, Roger Goodman, Alice Howell, and Ron Sterling (chair). The committee will begin the process of developing public affairs outreach plan, and will report back at the next committee meeting. Ron has established a Yahoo! Groups KCMHAB list serve that can be used for communication.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

**King County Mental Health Board
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Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6A, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

- I) Introductions**
- II) Review and Approval of June 26, 2002 Meeting Minutes**
- III) 2002 Action Plan – Legislative Advocacy and Outreach**
 - i) Discussion Legislative advocacy plan implementation progress
 - ii) Discussion: Outreach to the community partners, stakeholders
 - iii) Assignments/Next Steps
- IV) Community Legislative Forum**
 - i) Discussion: Updates on Location
 - ii) Discussion; Format for Forum
 - iii) Assignments/Next Steps
- V) Public Affairs Plan**
 - i) Update from Public Affairs Subcommittee
- VI) Set Agenda for August 28, 2002**

For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental health , chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136 or Sherry Hamilton, King County Department of Community and Human Services at (206) 205-1324

Available in alternate formats upon request.
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